

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers

BRIEF NOTES THOUGHT

OUT BY THE WAYSIDE

A good method of clearing the foliage of house plants is frequently to tip the plant bottom-side-up in soapy water. Immerse the plant clear to the pot, then cleanse in clean water.

You can cut down somewhat on the ration of a horse that has very little work. Give him from four to eight pounds of ground oats and corn, fed on chopped hay, in two meals.

Sugar beets are more valuable as stock food than mangolds, but do not yield quite so heavily per acre.

An orchard will live longer, bear better and be more profitable by being well cultivated and enriched.

Like flies like. Get cows that you love to see about you.

To make orcharding profitable the grower must receive enough for his fruit to pay the cost of growing and delivering it to the buyer, be he a consumer or broker, with a small margin for profit.

Some men rely upon their wits entirely to make money, but the mind will combine intellect with the work of his hand will get more satisfaction out of life.

A little sulphur dusted over plants that show signs of mildew will often stop the spread of the disease.

The philosophy of the pig is not to be despised. He never squeals except when he is hungry.

Every stormy day should be spent either in the woodshed or in the workshop.

Boys and girls leave the farm for two reasons because they are not permitted to shoulder responsibility, and because they have no financial interest in the business.

In some instances apple trees bear every other year. Proper pruning and plucking of excess fruit from young trees will insure fruit each year.

The city dealer profits by the laziness of the grower, by grading and repacking his badly assorted fruit.

We get the best by sifting. Put your cows through the process.

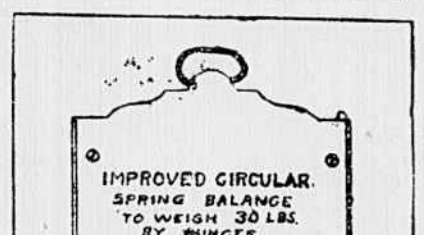
KEEPING THE RECORDS ON THE GOOD DAIRY COWS

C. H. Hekles writes The Times-Dispatch as follows:

It is well known that there is a vast difference in the amount of milk different cows will produce. One cow may yield three times as much milk and butter in a year as another on a third to a half more feed. One cow may be losing the dairyman as much money as another in an adjoining stall is making for him.

Clearly, it is desirable to keep only the profitable cows. To do this means that systematic records must be kept. No guesswork will do. No cow should be retained in the herd unless her milk and butter fat record shows she is profitable. At the Missouri Experiment Station, one Jersey cow produced three times as much milk and butter per year for three years as another cow that was her half sister. The difference in the cost of feed eaten by the two cows was not great, and both received the same good care.

The Illinois Experiment Station tested the herds of eighteen Illinois farmers, and found the same conditions to prevail. The best ten cows averaged 350 pounds of butter a year, while the poorest ten cows averaged 100 pounds. They found at least one-third of the cows in the ordinary herds to be unprofitable. Many herds in other localities have been tested with the same results. It is the rule



Successful Dairymen Begin With the Use of Milk Scales.

Do your boys and girls like to read history? There is no finer subject for them to be interested in. Get some good books in this line. And read them. It is a well as encourage the young folks to do it.

As to the Hog. When your hogs get sick, call the doctor. By doing so promptly you can save 25 per cent more than you can if you delay until the hog is dead. If it is cholera that is making your hogs sick.

Just a Little Thing. A little kitchen garden can easily be maintained at any sunny window. Sow lettuce, onions and radishes in shallow boxes, keep well watered, and they will furnish a surprising amount of green delicious food for the table right through the winter.

Think of These Things. It is as much our duty to see that the people who help us in our work in life get their full share of the benefit just as much as it is to secure the legitimate benefits we can for ourselves. Time now to be thinking over next year's work in the farm work.

Husks and Cobs. The canning factories in this county give the husks and cobs to the patrons, and it makes fine feed. They are glad to give this away to get rid of it. Putting it in a silo for the winter has been tried, but it has been found that it is better to give it away than to store it. A good spring scale is the best for ordinary farm use. One that can be purchased from any dairy supply house for about \$3 will answer every purpose. Scales may be obtained on which the dial is divided into pounds and ounces, or pounds and tenths, as preferred. The latter is much more convenient in adding up the totals. This style of balance is provided with a hand or pointer which can be adjusted to stand at zero with any ordinary milk pail. This enables the pail to be read directly without subtracting the weight of the pail.

Give the Boy a Chance. A twentieth century farmer of Amelia County, and his name is McWhorter, says that the Times-Dispatch Agricultural Editor has shown a decided talent for tinkering with the machinery around the place. He has invested in tools and a corner of his barn fixed up as a workshop will not only satisfy his ambition to a great extent, but save a lot of money in the repairs that he will make on the farm tools.

TREATMENT OF ORCHARDS

Interesting Thoughts by a Man Who Has Experience and Much of It.

W. E. Rumsey writes to the Agricultural Department of the Richmond Times-Dispatch as follows:

"The treatment which an orchard tree receives during the first few years of its growth often determines to a considerable degree the profitability of its bearing life. If allowed to become weak and stunted, as a result of attacks of insects, it may live on from year to year, but will probably never fully recover. Many young trees are killed outright by borers and such pests, or so seriously injured that they soon succumb to droughts or are broken down by storms.

"A young orchard that is not protected from these enemies is likely soon to show many missing trees, and those remaining will be irregular in size and will lack uniformity in shape, vigor and productivity. If the neglected orchard, these defects will become more and more apparent as the orchard advances in age. It is essential, therefore, in establishing a good orchard, that the trees not only come from the nursery free from hurtful insects and insect injuries, but that they may be kept so.

"Young trees are less able to withstand severe injuries than are old ones. They are, likewise, more easily protected. Their small size makes it an easy matter to examine them for, and to remove, borers. They can be sprayed quickly and effectively, and such insects as tent-caterpillars, and web-worms and bag-worms can be removed from their branches by hand with but very little cost and trouble or expense. It is possible, too, with very

little cost and labor, to protect the trunks from the ravages of mice and rabbits, and from the adult borers during the egg-laying season.

"The bag-worm is a peculiar insect which may be quite easily controlled by a little care and attention during the winter months. It winters in the egg state in the old female bag. In spring the young hatches and begins to feed on the nearest leaf, constructing, meanwhile, a case to cover its own body. The case is composed of web and bits of stick and is carried by the caterpillar wherever it goes. As the caterpillar grows the case, or bag, is enlarged, and when growth is completed it attaches the bag to a twig by a strong silken band and changes within to a pupa.

"The caterpillars multiply on such trees and become exceedingly abundant, where they often extend their ravages to fruit and other deciduous trees.

"The bags hanging to the branches are conspicuous objects during the winter months, and the best way of ridding trees of this insect is to collect and destroy the bags while the trees are bare."

Just Now. This is the time of year when the publishers of books and magazines are offering their best bargains. Ten dollars' worth of books can be had for five dollars. It is a well as encourage the young folks to do it.

Reading on the Farm. Do your boys and girls like to read history? There is no finer subject for them to be interested in. Get some good books in this line. And read them. It is a well as encourage the young folks to do it.

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IN THE CHICKEN YARD

Preservation of the poultry buildings means the same as cash in the bank. Keep them well painted outside and whitewashed inside. It also adds to their attractiveness and sanitation.

Poor ventilation in the henhouse is the common fault and the inaccessibility to sunlight is an equally serious one.

Stove polish mixed with turpentine will shine more brightly and last longer than when mixed with water.

A cabbage or mangel hung in the poultry house furnishes a much-needed green food.

Cats are harmful to chickens and often really do more harm in this way than they do good in catching mice and rats.

The Dairymen in the Winter. Cold weather is an enemy to milk production. Dairy herds must be well housed and comfortable if they are to give good returns. Warm, well-lighted and well-ventilated barns are essential to good yields. The temperature of a dairy barn should be kept between 40 and 60 degrees.

Plumbing in the Country. Any Virginia farmer who feels that the sanitary arrangements in his home are not entirely satisfactory is urged to apply to the United States Department of Agriculture for a copy of Bulletin No. 57. With the help of a reliable plumber or sanitary engineer he can obtain a simple and economical solution for his problem. But he had better fix the matter of his plumbing with the town plumber before he is put to work. We speak feelingly on this subject.

Just on the Farm. The census takers tell us that in many of the Western States there are fewer farmers now than there were ten years ago. This is a serious warning to the rural population and nothing can be done to reverse the trend on the farm more attractive to the young people should be left undone. A little care and attention during the winter months, and the young people should be left undone. A little care and attention during the winter months, and the young people should be left undone.

Senior and Junior Farmer. No man is entitled to following the practices of his father, without knowing why his father did so, or without knowing the scientific reason. Father was, no doubt, a good man in his day, but conditions of to-day are such that a man must do his own thinking if he is to be successful.

The Profits. A reduction in the yield in the cost of production will yield a larger profit to the dairyman than a 2-cent increase in the price of butter. Try and make a profit at both ends of the business.

CHRISTMAS WEEK DULL ON STOCK EXCHANGE

Not in Decade Has So Little Business Been Done—Bids Frequently Lacking for Active Shares.

NEW YORK, December 27.—Christmas week will go down in Wall Street history as the dulllest in almost a decade. The margin over established by light dealings. Before the end of the week bids were frequently lacking for some of the more active issues. The prices permitted by the Stock Exchange, however, were not unduly low. The general consideration of earnings power and dividends seemed to be the active factors.

"Large decrease in traffic and material reduction in revenue," was the explanation offered by the Pennsylvania Company for its drastic reduction of dividends. Concern was expressed respecting future disbursements by other railroads.

Pressure of money did not figure in the decline in the prices. Interest rates are steadily receding, bank real estate are accumulating to a degree almost undreamed of, and Federal reserve discounting is declining. Foreign exchange fell to well below par, while returns from principal sources of the favorable bank balance progressed.

Rates for war insurance aroused some fears of involvement of additional money. Fresh market burdens may be incurred in the reopening of the London Stock Exchange January 4, although the rules which are to accompany that event make for cautious and circumspect operations.

The public attitude toward the rate increase afforded encouragement for movements to secure passenger rate advances from various State authorities.

WHEAT SPECULATORS CONTROL SITUATION

Financiers Are Buying Up Grain and Selling at Advance to Small Towns in Europe.

CHICAGO, December 27.—It now develops that instead of millers and the various governments abroad taking the larger part of the wheat bought in the United States since the conflict broke out, a group of bankers and financiers are buying the larger part of this grain, and are selling it to the principal authorities of small towns. These holders are asking good prices for the grain they now own in the Old World, as well as that to come forward. In France the government is still supplying millers with wheat, which in that particular country is keeping the price of that grain down. In those countries where speculators are in control of the situation, conditions are against buyers.

Western receipts of wheat continue to fall off as compared with a year ago, but are smaller than a week ago. Not only have the receipts at the primary points fallen off, but in the Northwest they are smaller than comparative periods, because of the idea of farmers to hold wheat, as well as because of the rough weather experienced in that country of late.

There is more outside business in wheat at the moment than for several weeks. The speculators, or the public, favor a bull market, and this fact has helped the situation in that grain is little. The spot offerings of wheat continue light, when the buying power is considered, and the clearances from the seaboard from week to week are smaller than they otherwise would be under more favorable conditions. More

HAULE WRECK VICTIMS ARE RESTORED TO LIFE

Thirteen Apparently Dead Resuscitated by Efforts of Revenue Cutter's Men.

THIRTEEN apparently dead victims of the wreck of the American steamer Haule—picked up the morning of November 24, with many dead, from wreckage strewn along shore and drifted to sea in an area of a quarter of a mile—were brought back to life and consciousness by the unremitting efforts of their rescuers. The report of the services of the revenue cutter McCulloch, made by Captain J. A. Alger, commanding, to the revenue cutter service, The report gives a detailed account of the rescue and the thrilling story of sea horror and heroism.

WASHINGTON, December 27.—How thirteen apparently lifeless victims of the wreck of the American steamer Haule—picked up the morning of November 24, with many dead, from wreckage strewn along shore and drifted to sea in an area of a quarter of a mile—were brought back to life and consciousness by the unremitting efforts of their rescuers. The report of the services of the revenue cutter McCulloch, made by Captain J. A. Alger, commanding, to the revenue cutter service, The report gives a detailed account of the rescue and the thrilling story of sea horror and heroism.

During the night the McCulloch took aboard the crews of the Bonita and the Port Point life-saving station. The Bonita, under command of the charge of Keeper Cutter, towed the disabled power-boat of the Port Point station alongside about 8 o'clock. The keeper of the Port Point station and one survivor of the Haule, who had been in efforts to succor the Haule, were then supposed to have been lost.

Both life-saving crews had been exhausted in the effort to aid the Haule. The Bonita, under command of Captain Alger, the life savers had been unable to get near on account of heavy breakers and rocks outside. It was not until daylight more could be done until daylight.

Activities on shore were discerned during the night. Bonfires were to be seen and guns could be heard, indicating efforts to get the Haule to the wreck by which to rig a breeches buoy.

The power lifeboats were made ready for use, while awaiting daylight. Officers and members of the crew of the McCulloch, under command of Captain Alger, were to take the place of absent life savers and to take charge of the operations.

Daylight, the wreck was visible, broken in places on shore. Offshore, just outside the breakers, considerable wreckage was floating. The sea had subsided, and fuel oil from the tanks of the Haule, which had floated from the breaker off shore.

All boats got into the breakers around the wreckage, and picked up some of the living and dead as they could load and reach. The first boat to get into the breakers was the vessel by the Bonita Point lifeboat. Most of these were afterward resuscitated. The McCulloch's boats also brought aboard the revenue cutter a number of bodies. Other corpses were put on board a launch that was aiding.

"The sight of these people, as they were brought on board, was one that I shall never forget," says Captain Alger, in his report. "Their condition was pitiable. All were covered with a thick film of fuel oil, their hair was matted, their faces were partly torn off, their faces and bodies were cut, and the eyes of those who were able to sit up stared without seeing. Their suffering must have been beyond description."

All the bodies, as fast as brought aboard, were carried into the cabin. The clothing was torn or cut off. Artificial respiration was then resorted to, and the bodies were revived. The bodies were then placed in the morgue, and the survivors were administered. Those who remained sufficiently to this treatment were fitted to suits of underclothing and warm socks from the ship's locker, and then wrapped in blankets and kept perfectly quiet.

The thirteen survivors were carried by the McCulloch to the dock at San Francisco, and thence removed to the hospital. The coroner took charge of the fifteen dead aboard, with properties. Two other bodies were picked up by other agencies. Thirty-two were rescued alive on the beach. There were four survivors and nineteen lives lost in this terrible sea tragedy.

FOOLED BY IMITATION BARS Prisoner Uses Paper to Replace Cut One, but Is Caught.

WORCESTER, MASS., December 27.—A prisoner escaped from the window of his cell, Albert W. Johnson, twenty-four years old, who was awaiting grand jury action on a charge of breaking and entering, escaped from his cell in the county jail yesterday and beat Curtis W. Sasset, a prison guard, in a struggle.

Finding that none of the keys in the guard's possession would open the outside door, Johnson returned to his cell, replaced the cut bars with paper imitations and went to sleep while the jail officials searched for Sasset's assailant. It was not until eight hours had passed that the cells four times that the counterfeit bars in Johnson's cell were discovered.

COLLECTORS GO TO BOLIVIA

Will Get Specimens of Fauna for American Museum.

NEW YORK, December 27.—Alfred M. Collins and Lee Garnet Day sailed on the steamship Metapan to-day at the start of an expedition to Bolivia to collect specimens of the fauna of the country in behalf of the Field Museum of Chicago and the American Museum of Natural History, of New York. The expedition will be gone six months.

QUIT HUNT FOR MISSING MAN.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., December 27.—The police department here has quit its hunt for R. W. Braswell, a candy store clerk who disappeared from his home here on Saturday. The old candy store, in which it was believed Braswell might have been thrown, or jumped, has been drained.

Mrs. Mary M. Cline.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., December 27.—Mrs. Mary M. Cline, widow of John T. Cline, of Loudoun County, Va., died at her home here after a brief illness, heart failure, on Saturday. She leaves four daughters, one son, two brothers and two sisters.

John C. Seabright.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., December 27.—John C. Seabright, seventy-one years old, a former chief of police, died suddenly of acute indigestion and asthma at the home of his son, Harry M. Seabright. He leaves also two daughters, Mrs. William L. Whisman and Mrs. Frank Haymaker, two brothers and two sisters.

FULL TIME FOR SHOEMAKERS

McElwain Plant at Manchester, N. H., Posts Notice.

MANCHESTER, N. H., December 27.—Notice announcing a resumption of full time shoe departments were posted in the factory of the W. H. McElwain Shoe Manufacturing Company here yesterday. Seven thousand employees in the local shops will be affected. Only part of the plant has been running recently, and not on full time.

A., T. & N. ENTERS MOBILE

Will Operate Over Lines of the Southern Railway.

MOBILE, ALA., December 27.—The Alabama, Tennessee and Northern Railway will operate trains into Mobile beginning February 1, according to announcement made by President John T. Cochran. He is authority for the statement that his line has entered into an agreement with the Southern Railway to use the Southern's tracks from Calvert, thirty miles north of this city.

This agreement gives the A., T. & N. Railroad a continuous north and south line of 230 miles from Reform, Ala., to Mobile. The company holds extensive harbor front property, one pier having been completed for business.

The Tombigbee Valley Railroad was recently consolidated with the Alabama, Tennessee and Northern Railway.

RUNAWAY ENGINE IN CRASH

Collides With Train, Injuring Nine Persons, Two Seriously.

ATCHISON, KAS., December 27.—Two persons were seriously injured and seven slightly hurt when a runaway engine, starting from a roundhouse near here, ran two miles and collided with Missouri Pacific passenger train No. 106 early yesterday. Both engines were badly battered, and the tender of the passenger train telescoped the baggage car. Henry Kinney, fireman of the passenger train, and P. P. Turner, a mail clerk, were the most badly injured.

FREIGHT RATE INCREASE

Traveling Men Sign Protest to Present to Interstate Commerce Commission.

CINCINNATI, December 27.—A petition protesting against any increase in passenger or excess baggage rates by any of the railroads was started here yesterday at a meeting of the Traveling Men's Association of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. More than 400 members attended the meeting, and a committee was appointed to lay the petition before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Another committee was appointed to circulate like petitions throughout the United States.

VALUED AT \$485,000,000

American Manufacturers Produce 515,000 Motor Vehicles in Year.

CHICAGO, December 27.—In the year drawing to a close American manufacturers turned out 515,000 motor vehicles valued at \$485,000,000. This information came from Alfred Reeves, general manager of the Automobile Chamber of Commerce, which reported that this output came from 450 concerns.

It is said there were 1,500,000 cars registered in the various States; that there were 15,000 automobiles and 650 supply houses.

PROTEST FROM LOUISIANA

Governor Hall Objects to Turpentine and Rosin on Contraband List.

BATON ROUGE, LA., December 27.—Governor Luther E. Hall has telegraphed Secretary Bryan and others against the intention of Great Britain to place turpentine and rosin on the absolute contraband list. The governor also telegraphed Senators Thornton and Handell and Senator-elect Broussard, suggesting that the Louisiana congressional delegation join the delegations of other States in the yellow pine belt in a general protest.

Plant Will Resume Work.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) LYNCHBURG, VA., December 27.—Announcement is made that the furnace, boiler and machinery of the Iron Company, which is located just outside the city, will be put in full blast early in January. The plant has been idle for two months. It employs about 100 men when in operation.

Our Home Company

INCORPORATED 1912.

Virginia Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

WE INVITE YOUR SCRUTINY AND SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE

Assets - - - - - \$1,730,370.00

Place Your January Dividends

In One or More of Our SIX PER CENT. CERTIFICATES Issued in Denominations of \$50.00, \$100.00, \$500.00 and \$1,000.00 Interest January and July.

Fidelity Loan and Savings Co.

(Incorporated) Chamber of Commerce Building.

CAPITAL RESOURCES \$100,000.00 \$427,000.00

Member American Bankers' Association.

First National Bank

MAIN AND NINTH.

Capital and Surplus \$ 3,000,000

Deposits 13,375,000

Resources Over 20,000,000

Established 1865.